

Message Text

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16

ORIGIN ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 INS-01 EUR-12 AID-05

VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 R

DRAFTED BY S/R:ORM:JMCHALE:AVS

APPROVED BY S/R:LAWIESNER

INS - MR. T. BROBSON (PHONE)

MR. E. O'CONNOR (PHONE)

NEA/ARN - MISS M.H. MAUGHAN

ORM - MR. PAPPAS

S/R - MR. TURNER

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R 272011Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 261907

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CVIS, LE, IZ

SUBJ: REFUGEES IN BEIRUT

REF: GENEVA 6846; BEIRUT 13937

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES RECEIPT OF INFORMATION AND SUGGESTIONS FURNISHED REFTELS. WE ARE CONSIDERING PROBLEMS AND ALTERNATIVES. FOLLOWING COMMENTS CAN BE FURNISHED AT THIS TIME.

2. INS ASSURES DEPARTMENT IT WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT POSSIBLE TO INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF NUMBERS FOR USE AT BEIRUT. NEVERTHELESS INS MUST COPE WITH WORLDWIDE INCREASE ON DEMAND FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY NUMBERS PARTICULARLY BY SOVIET REFUGEES. ABOUT THREE THOUSAND
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SOVIET REFUGEES HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR ADMISSION TO US

THIS YEAR. AT PRESENT INS CANNOT CONTEMPLATE INCREASE IN PERSONNEL EITHER AT ATHENS OR BEIRUT. THE SERVICE IS FACED WITH SHORTAGES OF PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES AND HAS LITTLE EXPECTATION OF INCREASE IN EITHER.

3. DEPARTMENT VIEWS REFUGEE OPERATION AT BEIRUT AS AN EXTREMELY DELICATE ONE BOTH FROM POINT OF VIEW OF GOL'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER FRIENDLY ARAB STATES AND WITH UNHCR. EMBASSY BEIRUT ADVISES IT IS UNLIKELY GOL WILL ADMIT PRESENCE IN LEBANON OF REFUGEES FROM OTHER FRIENDLY ARAB STATES FOR POLITICAL REASONS. WE CONCUR IN EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT THAT ANY DIRECT APPROACH TO GOL COULD RESULT IN JEOPARDIZING PRESENT ARRANGEMENT.

4. ONE OBVIOUS ALTERNATIVE IS EFFORT BY UNHCR TO SEEK OTHER COUNTRIES OF RESETTLEMENT TO DECREASE BACKLOG. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT A CONSPICUOUSLY RAPID REDUCTION OF BACKLOG MAY RESULT IN IMMEDIATE REPLACEMENTS FROM IRAQ. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT RAPID REDUCTION WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED EVEN AS A RESULT OF UNHCR EFFORTS PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF CURRENT RESTRICTION IN IMMIGRATION IN MANY COUNTRIES AS RESULT OF ECONOMIC SITUATION. GENEVA MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS WITH UNHCR POSSIBILITY OF UNHCR DISCREETLY ENCOURAGING OTHER COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

5. DEPARTMENT CONSIDERING OTHER ASPECTS OF THIS PROBLEM AND CONTINUING TO SEEK MEANS TO IMPROVE SITUATION. COMMENTS FROM ADDRESSEES ARE ENCOURAGED. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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